

USDA FOREST SERVICE, ALLEGHENY NATIONAL FOREST, MARIENVILLE RANGER DISTRICT, FOREST COUNTY, PENNSYLVANIA, NOTICE OF OPPORTUNITY TO COMMENT FOR THE OTTER PROJECT. The Marienville Ranger District has prepared an environmental assessment analyzing potential effects from vegetative management activities, including timber harvests and associated reforestation treatments, non-native plant species treatments, wildlife habitat enhancements, and road construction, realignment, maintenance, and decommissioning within the 14,506 acre project area on the Allegheny National Forest. The project area is located in Highland, Jones, and Ridgway Townships in Elk County, Pennsylvania.

Please note this project is subject to the 36 C.F.R. part 218 pre-decisional objection process. Only those who submit specific written comments regarding the proposed project during a designated public comment period established by the responsible official are eligible to file and objection. The opportunity to comment ends 30 days following the date of publication of the legal notice in this newspaper (The Kane Republican). In order to establish eligibility to object based on comments submitted during this time period, an individual or entity must submit timely specific written comments that are within the scope of the proposed action, have a direct relationship to the proposed action, and include supporting reasons for the responsible official to consider. Additional requirements are specified in 36 C.F.R. 218.25(a)(3).

Comments must be submitted to Robert T. Fallon, USDA-Forest Service, Marienville Ranger District, 131 Smokey Lane, Marienville, PA 16239. Comments submitted in Microsoft Office or Adobe Acrobat compatible formats will be also accepted by email addressed to: comments-eastern-allegheny-marienville@fs.fed.us. Please reference the Otter project and include your name and physical mailing address with your correspondence. Hand delivered comments can be received between 8:00 am to 12:00 pm and 12:30 pm and to 4:30 pm. Comments must be postmarked, or otherwise received, no later than 30 days after publication of the legal notice. Comments received, including names and addresses of those who comment, will be considered part of the public record for this project and available for public inspection. For objection eligibility, those who submit comments must either sign their comments or verify their identity upon request.

The Otter Environmental Assessment is available upon request from the Marienville Ranger District and on the Allegheny National Forest website at <https://www.fs.usda.gov/project/?project=55025>. Additional information may also be obtained by contacting the Marienville Ranger District at (814) 927-6628.

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